DOCUMENT RESUME

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TITLE	Safe Active Play: A Guide to Avoiding Play Area Hazards. [Videotape.]
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ABSTRACT

Active play provides healthy exercise and allows children to test their skills against challenges in their environment, but when play results in even minor injury, it may be taking place in a hazardous setting. This video is designed to teach caregivers, child care program staff and recreation officials how to create safe play environments. Based on the National Playground Safety's Institute Dirty Dozen, a list of the 12 most serious hazards commonly found on playgrounds, the video provides detailed specific information on how to: (1) use appropriate protective surfacing under equipment both indoors and outdoors; (2) make sure there are adequate fall zones around equipment; (3) identify protrusion and entanglement hazards; (4) identify entrapment hazards; (5) make adequate space around each piece of equipment; (6) identify trip hazards; (7) use age-appropriate equipment; (8) Identify pinch, shear and crush points; (9) use guard rails and safety barriers; (10) identify dangerous equipment; (11) follow a regular inspection and maintenance schedule; and (12) supervise children at all times. Rather than focus only on playground problems, the video demonstrates how hazards may be present in indoor play and suggests how programs can provide alternatives while hazards are removed or repaired. The video is intended both as an inservice training tool for caregivers who supervise children and as a guide to program directors who may need to design a new play area or modify an existing area. (WJC)

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